

What's In A Name?

Sometimes There Is a Lot of Trouble

By F. A. MITCHEL

Caspar Kneibitz's great-great-grandfather was a German. He was not a Prussian nor a warrior, but a Hanoverian and a professor. Indeed, the old fellow was a bookworm, who, if a fly had attacked the tip of his nose, would have been too absorbed in his studies to have defended himself. And if the fly had succeeded in arresting his attention he would not have injured the intruder for the world. He would have opened a window and put it out.

His son, Caspar, was called to the chair of a university in France. Thenceforth the family became French. The men, of course, kept the German surname, but by the time the fourth Caspar Kneibitz came this was all the German there was about them. Not one of them could speak a word of German, and the third Kneibitz had given his life for France in the war of 1870.

When Germany advanced into Belgium to seize Paris, Caspar Kneibitz of the fourth generation, the hero of this story—if the word hero is a proper appellation—was twenty-one years old. He was only deterred from joining the colors by being so desperately in love with Hortense le Verrier that he was unable to tear himself away from her, though it must be admitted that if he had been able to master his own feelings sufficiently to leave her she would not have let him go.

For a Frenchman to have a German name accrued to his disadvantage as soon as the war broke out. Caspar Kneibitz was at last driven to part with his beloved Hortense on this account. When others had joined the colors and Caspar remained at home it was suspected that the reason he did not go to the war was because of German sympathies. When he came to know of this suspicion he was much pained. He told Hortense that he must not listen to the voice of love any longer and at once began to make preparations to go to the front.

Of course he met with great opposition. Hortense was sure that she would never see him again and that her life would be blighted. He tried to reassure her, but in vain. However, since the suspicions of his countrymen that he was loyal to a country he had never seen and of whose language he did not know a word had been aroused, his resolution was taken.

In order to make the separation easier for his sweetheart he promised to write her a letter every day that it would be possible for him to write. Another thing she insisted on which would not likely be possible was that after every battle, if he came out alive, he telegraph her to that effect. Caspar fully realized the crowded conditions of the telegraph lines, especially immediately after a battle, and that they were under control of the government, but he had not the heart to make it known to the girl, thus denying her this crumb of comfort. However, not knowing what possibilities might arise, he drew up a cipher code by which he might add a few endearing words of information concerning himself.

It was decided by the lovers that they would be married before a separation that might last forever. The ceremony was performed privately with few persons present. Within a week after its conclusion Caspar departed for the front.

While Caspar's loyalty to France was not questioned by those who knew him personally, his name at once excited suspicion in strangers. He had scarcely broken away from the clanking Hortense and gained his regiment before he began to be looked upon as a possible German sympathizer, though why he should be in the French army if he was loyal to Germany was not explained. Truth is that many a man loyal to France or England who had German blood in his veins experienced a like suspicion.

Caspar joined the army as a private and would have been promoted had it not been for his German name. Several times he distinguished himself, and officers immediately above him having been killed off, there were vacancies. But when it came to a question of filling them and Caspar was proposed his name caused his rejection.

"What! Lieutenant Caspar Kneibitz to command Frenchmen? Impossible!" Of course Caspar knew nothing of this; he only knew that when vacancies occurred he was not promoted. It did not trouble him, for his heart was with his dear Hortense, and all he desired was that the war should be ended and he might return to her.

As luck would have it, Caspar found a friend, an operator in the military telegraph department. One day when he was feeling very homesick Caspar went to the office and asked his friend to send a dispatch for him. No fight was going on at the time, and the telegraph was not very busy, so the friend told the lover that if he would leave his message with him he would endeavor to smuggle it through the seven messages for the government. Caspar left his message, which the operator put on file without looking at it and when a convenient time for sending it arrived took it up for the purpose.

He was surprised to see that it was in cipher. Not feeling at liberty to send a cipher message, the operator laid it aside. When Caspar came again to inquire if it had been sent, and was told that it was held because it was in cipher Caspar looked so disappointed and begged so hard that it be put over the wires that his friend promised to do so, though he feared trouble would result. Caspar assured him that there was nothing in the dispatch that would be of the slightest injury to France, and this turned the scale.

M. Larrabee, deputed to examine telegrams received in Paris, was sitting at his desk when an operator handed him Caspar's dispatch. The moment he read the name of the person to whom it was addressed and noticed that the message was in cipher his face assumed the expression of one who had unearthed an announcement to German sympathizers that Paris was about to be attacked by a hundred Zeppelins.

"Mille tonnerres!" he exclaimed. "Has it come to this? Do the enemy send cipher messages to their spies in Paris over our telegraph lines? To Mme. Kneibitz, 21 Rue Pompadour. Could there be better evidence that this message is intended for one of the horde of German spies in our midst, who are watching our every act?"

Taking up a telephone receiver, he called up the officer in charge of the military telegraph and informed him of the message, stating that he did not doubt that it had been surreptitiously sent in the expectation that it would be delivered by some one in the telegraph department who was working secretly in the German interest. Colonel Bombardier, the officer telephoned, directed that the dispatch be sent to him and, after receiving and examining it, called a council of war to decide what to do in the premises.

When the council assembled experts in interpreting cipher telegrams were introduced and began the work of translating it. This was not easy to do, for it consisted in certain sentences which doubtless had a meaning for the receiver. However, the experts, not daring to acknowledge that they could make nothing of it, gave a possible translation, admitting that they could not vouch for its correctness. The meaning they placed upon it was that it announced a meeting of the German spies in Paris to receive one high in the German secret service.

Meanwhile Hortense was arrested and taken to Colonel Bombardier's office, where she was kept in an ante-room awaiting the result of the work of the experts. In time she was called in to face an array of men who looked ready to send her to the gallows.

"Frau Kneibitz," said the colonel, "do you speak French?"

"I don't speak any other language," was the meek reply.

"Do not try to deceive me. You are German, as your name indicates. A dispatch in cipher addressed to you has been intercepted. It is an announcement that an officer of high rank in the German secret service is coming to Paris to meet the spy corps in Paris."

This was said because if it were the true interpretation of the dispatch the young woman would likely collapse. She did no such thing. She simply looked at her accusers wonderingly.

"Who is Caspar?" asked the colonel severely.

"Monsieur, he is my husband. Has anything happened to him?" she asked, pining.

"You play your part well, but it will not serve."

"Have you a dispatch from him to me? Oh, give it to me!"

After a conference it was decided to read the dispatch aloud to her. The colonel began with the first sentence, "The weather is very fine," and asked her what it meant. She did not need the key to tell him; she knew it by heart.

"I am well," she replied.

The second sentence read was, "Yesterday it was hot."

Hortense, somewhat abashed, replied, "Sweetheart, I love you."

The members of the council looked at one another incredulously.

Again, "We are expecting cooler weather tomorrow."

"That means a thousand kisses," replied the bride, dropping her eyes to the floor.

"This climate is trying."

"I shall never see you again till France is victorious."

"The mud is very deep."

"Goodby, sweetheart. I shall love you forever."

Several of the men who had been impressed with Hortense's gentleness, honesty and, above all, that she was essentially French smiled. Colonel Bombardier's countenance assumed a sham-faced expression. He stood with the dispatch in his hand wondering what next to do.

"Colonel," said one of the council, "you've struck what they call in America a mare's nest."

"The case," said the colonel, maintaining an official tone, "will be better examined into by a woman. I shall send Mme. Kneibitz to Mme. Leblanc, head of our woman's detective bureau, and if she reports favorably the prisoner will be discharged."

Mme. Leblanc, instead of assuming the pomposity of the officers, began by soothing the poor little bride and soon discerned that she was wrapped up in her husband and had no other concern. Hortense produced the cipher code, and Mme. Leblanc saw that every sentence in it was nothing more than a love message. Then she reported to Colonel Bombardier, who pigeonholed the matter.

When Hortense wrote an account of the affair Caspar Kneibitz applied to his superior to be entered on the army roster as Charles Nightingale.

AUSTRIANS ARE IN WILD FLIGHT

Italy Using Cavalry for First Time Pursuing Them.

LATINS CAPTURE MORE TOWNS

Vienna Claims Russ Lines Are Broken in Lutsch Sector—British Pierce German Lines in Ten Places—French Retake Positions at Thiamont—Germans Gain in East.

Milan, June 28.—For three days the Austro-Hungarian army which invaded Italy has been in headlong flight, abandoning wounded, guns and stores. For the first time since hostilities opened Italy is using cavalry for pursuit of the enemy.

An order to Austrian troops saying "In Italy good wines and beautiful women are waiting for us," has been found upon a wounded Austrian officer.

Italians Take More Towns.

Rome June 28.—Following up their recent successes on the Trentino front the Italians have driven back the Austrians still farther, the war office announces. The Italians have captured Posina, Arsiero, Mounts Fiara, Taverle, Spitz, Kesseler and Cima della Saette and the crests on the Caldera and Campanella.

Pierce German Lines at 10 Points.

London, June 28.—The British, French and Belgian offensive on the western fronts is continuing with unabated activity and gains for the allies at numerous points are reported in official statements. London briefly reports the German lines pierced at ten points. Berlin again makes specific mention of the violence of the allied attacks, particularly in the vicinity of the Somme, though claiming that practically all the allied efforts resulted in failure.

At Verdun the French claim the recapture of more trenches in the Thiamont region.

Break the Russians' Front.

London, June 28.—According to the latest Vienna communication, the Austrians have effected a breach in the Russian front in the Lutsch salient near the Svidniki bridgehead, an important position on the direct road to Fovel. This statement is in contradiction to the Petrograd report, but it probably was issued later. Otherwise than in the Lutsch region, neither side has made any headway in this theater of the war.

The Times correspondent at the Russian headquarters at this front explains the facility with which the Germans can re-enforce their line and says this makes the maintaining of the Russian positions difficult.

Germans Claim Offensive Gains.

Berlin, June 28.—Continuing their successful counter offensive against the Russians the Germans stormed enemy lines west of Sokul taking several hundred prisoners, it was officially announced.

Intense British artillery fire on both sides of the Somme was reported. French attacks west of Thiamont and southwest of Fort Vaux were without result.

DRIVER PULLS WRONG LEVER

He Reaches Street Before Machine Goes into the River.

Port Huron, June 28.—Frank Miller, employed at Petit's garage, had a narrow escape from losing his life when he pulled the wrong lever on an automobile he was driving and backed into Black River at the rear of the garage. Miller opened the door and jumped from the car just before it struck the water.

The car sank in seventeen feet of water. It was recovered by a diver.

Experimenting with Y. M. C. A.

Muskegon, June 28.—Business men of Muskegon have raised a fund of \$5,000 to establish a Y. M. C. A. for two years as an experiment, with the intention of making a campaign for a building fund at the expiration of that time if the Y. M. C. A. proves a success.

Cyclone Hits Silos.

Vassar, June 28.—A small cyclone passed over Denmark township doing much damage. Fred Kribble's two silos were blown down and John Young's new barn was torn from the foundation and nearly destroyed.

Youth Attempts Suicide.

Belding, June 28.—Nelson Chickering, aged twenty-four years, son of Ross Chickering, a farmer residing near Belding, attempted suicide by shooting himself in the breast near the heart and may die.

Bay City Man's Fall Is Fatal.

Bay City, June 28.—John Rambow, fifty-two, fell or jumped from the third floor of the Clifton House. He was found dead on the Midland street side walk.

Pioneer Resident Dies.

Eaton Rapids, June 28.—Mrs. M. L. Case, aged seventy-five years, Eaton Rapids pioneer resident, died at the home of her daughter in Jackson.

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VILLA OFFERS MEXICO AID

Outlaw Who Precipitated Trouble Would Fight U. S.

Washington, June 28.—Pancho Villa, whose raid on Columbus, N. M., brought on the Mexican crisis, not only is alive, but now is dickering with Carranza to join his forces against the United States, according to private advices reaching the state department. These advices say Villa is at Escalon, near Parral. He is declared to have offered Carranza an army of several hundred.

Straightening Streams With Dynamite

The ancient Egyptians were noted for their crops because, as history states, they "sowed their seeds in the Nile." This does not mean that they actually cast the seed in the river. At certain seasons of the year the Nile overflows its banks, depositing on either shore a rich silt or earth that is highly conducive to bumper crops, and the wise ancient Egyptians, realizing this, profited thereby.

Water is a necessity. The tiniest brooks up to the largest rivers play an important part in the scheme of things inasmuch as they are nature's way of

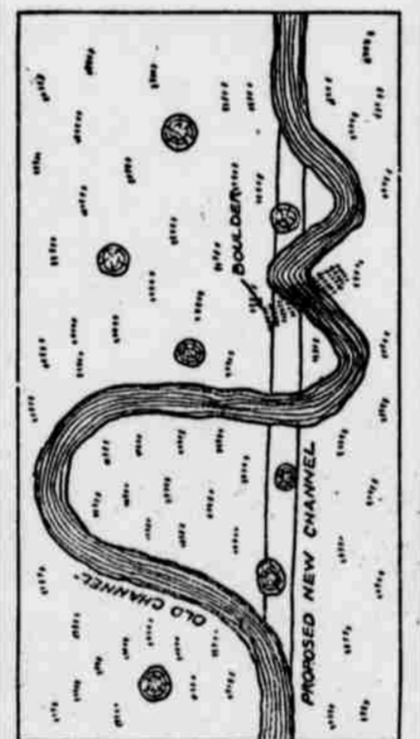


Diagram of Stream Troubles That May Be Corrected by Blasting.

both irrigation and drainage. But being formed according to nature's dictates their courses do not always jibe with man's desires or needs.

Rock ledges impede their progress. Overhanging stumps and trees retard

their flow. Numerous irregularities cause them to meander about in apparently wasteful ways, and man's carelessness has added to these troubles by allowing driftwood and loose earth to form dams and sandbars.

All of these things help to hold the flood of waters back and cause either flooding or swamps, which not only occupy land that could be more profitably used for farming, but also form fine breeding places for mosquitoes and other obnoxious pests. Incidentally they cause an annual loss running into millions of dollars per year.

In this day of enlightenment such things are both wasteful and, one might add, criminal, especially so in view of the fact that almost instant relief may be had by a few well placed charges of dynamite. Not only will these blasts straighten out the kinks and bends and remove ledges and sand bars, but they will deepen and improve the channels as nature has really intended. Incidentally by straightening the winding course of a creek much area of tillable land can be obtained and farm operation in many instances made much easier.

Commissioners' Notice.

In the matter of the estate of Etta Dutch, deceased. We, the undersigned, having been appointed by the Hon. Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate in and for the County of Shiawassee, State of Michigan, Commissioners to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands of all persons against said estate, do hereby give notice that we will meet at the office of Gustav F. Friege in the City of Owosso, in said County, on Saturday the 8th day of July, A. D. 1916 and on Friday, the 8th day of Sept. A. D. 1916, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of each of said days for the purpose of receiving and adjusting all claims against said estate, and that four months from the 17th day of June, A. D. 1916, are allowed to creditors to present their claims to said Commissioners for adjustment and allowance.

Dated the 8th day of May, A. D. 1916.
GUSTAV F. FRIEGEL,
WILLIAM KIRN,
Commissioners.

Commissioners' Notice.

In the matter of the estate of Jacob W. Smith, deceased. We, the undersigned, having been appointed by the Hon. Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate in and for the County of Shiawassee, State of Michigan, Commissioners to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands of all persons against said estate, do hereby give notice that we will meet at the residence of Eugene LaHart in the City of Owosso, in said County, on Friday, the 11th day of August, A. D. 1916, and on Wednesday, the 11th day of October, A. D. 1916, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of each of said days, for the purpose of receiving and adjusting all claims against said estate, and that four months from the 17th day of June, A. D. 1916, are allowed to creditors to present their claims to said Commissioners for adjustment and allowance.

Dated the 10th day of June, A. D. 1916.
ASA D. WHIPPLE,
CHARLES W. JENNINGS,
Commissioners.

Commissioners' Notice.

In the matter of the estate of Gustav La Haire Sr., deceased. We, the undersigned, having been appointed by the Hon. Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate in and for the County of Shiawassee, State of Michigan, Commissioners to receive, examine and adjust all claims and demands of all persons against said estate, do hereby give notice that we will meet at the residence of Eugene LaHart in the City of Owosso, in said County, on Monday, the 17th day of July, A. D. 1916, and on Monday, the 18th day of September, A. D. 1916, at ten o'clock in the forenoon of each of said days, for the purpose of receiving and adjusting all claims against said estate, and that four months from the 17th day of June, A. D. 1916, are allowed to creditors to present their claims to said Commissioners for adjustment and allowance.

Dated the 17th day of May, A. D. 1916.
CHARLES SPRING,
ERNEST KLINGBELL,
Commissioners.

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Order of Publication.

State of Michigan. The Probate Court for the County of Shiawassee.

At a Session of the Probate Court for the County of Shiawassee, held at the Probate Office in the City of Corunna, on Monday the 13th day of June in the year one thousand nine hundred and sixteen.

Present, Matthew Bush, Judge of Probate.

In the matter of the estate of Frederick Steadman, deceased.

On reading and filing the petition of Anna Steadman praying that administration of said estate may be granted to George L. Cramer or some other suitable person.

It is ordered, that the 17th day of July next at ten o'clock in the forenoon, at said Probate Office, be assigned for hearing said petition.

And it is further ordered, that a copy of this order be published three successive weeks previous to said day of hearing, in The Owosso Times, a newspaper printed and circulating in said County of Shiawassee.

(A true copy) MATTHEW BUSH,
CLARENCE GALLOWAY,
Probate Register.

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